Policy for inclusion of major industries in agricultural sector

†*616. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major companies have shown their inclination towards agricultural sector;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to formulate a policy in order to boost the interest of private sector and to safeguard the interest of farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government recognizes that private sector's participation can lead to accelerated technology transfer, capital inflow and assured markets for crop production in agriculture.

In order to facilitate private sector participation in agriculture, the Central Government has circulated a Model law on Agricultural Marketing, which the State Governments have been asked to suitably adopt. The various provisions of the model law will, while facilitating direct marketing and contract farming arrangements, also safeguard the interests of farmers. *Inter-alia*, there is a dispute resolving mechanism embedded in the model law to protect farmers in the event of violation of contract.

The seed sector also has a large number of private sector companies through whom, high quality seeds are being sought to be introduced so as to augment agricultural production. A new Seeds Bills has also been introduced in Parliament which, *inter-alia*, while acknowledging the private sector's complementary role in the seed sector also has more stringent penal provisions for protecting the farmers in case of departure from prescribed norms. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, which has been put in place so as to protect the intellectual property rights of plant breeders who may be from the private sector also has specific provisions for protecting the traditional rights of farmers.

The Government has also approved a new scheme in agricultural extension where private sector involvement is envisaged. In agricultural mechanization, the private sector plays a key role in the manufacture of agricultural equipment. The scheme for construction fo rural godowns and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the activities of the National Horticulture Board also provide for private sector participation.

Mumbai's local train network

*617. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to revamp Mukbai's local train network, the city's life line, in two phases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its estimated cost; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The improvement to Mumbai Local Train network has been taken up under the rail component of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-I. The proposal for MUTP Phase-II has been received and is under the consideration of Ministry of Railways.

(b) The cost of MUTP Phase-I is Rs. 3125 crore. It includes Resettlement and Rehabilitation of 15,857 Project Affected Hosueholds (PAHs) at a cost of Rs. 290 crore, infrastructure works costing Rs. 1476 crore and procurement of rolling stock at a cost of Rs. 1359 crore. The details of Rail projects being executed under MUTP Phase-I are shown in the enclosed statement (see below).

(c) Phase-I of MUTP is already sanctioned and under execution. Approval to MUTP Phase-II has already been given by Govt. of Maharashtra and the same is under examination of Ministry of Railways.

Statement

Rail projects being executed under MUTP

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Projects	Cost
1.	Provision of 5th line Western Railway	59.00
2.	5th & 6th line between Kurla-Thane	166.00
3.	Borivali-Virar Quadrupling	436.00
4.	Optimization of Western Railway	50.00
5.	Optimization of Central Railway	100.00
6.	Optimization of Harbour line	20.00
7.	Direct Current to Alternating Current Conversion	380.00